



## **PLACER JUDICIAL MENTOR PROGRAM**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: Why has the Placer Judicial Mentor Program been created?**

A: The California Constitution provides for the process of election of Judges and the process for the appointment of Judges by the Governor of California. The Governor's Office has established a goal to expand the list of qualified judicial applicants to include more applicants with varied backgrounds, such as practice in underserved communities, diversity of legal experience, diversity of life experience and diversity of practice. The Placer Judicial Mentor Program seeks to facilitate a deeper understanding of the judicial application/selection process for practicing attorneys interested in court service as a judge. The Placer Judicial Mentor Program also seeks to establish a mentorship program to include more applicants with varied backgrounds, such as practice in underserved communities, diversity of legal experience, diversity of life experience and diversity of practice in Placer County. The Placer Judicial Mentor Program will also provide information regarding court service, public service, community involvement and community service.

**Q: Are there special qualifications for those who submit an expression of interest in the program?**

A: Each mentee must meet all of the following qualifications: 1) Interest in and commitment to public service; 2) Interest in becoming a judge; and 3) Nine years good standing membership with the State Bar of California, at least nine years' experience as a lawyer practicing in California and no prior record of attorney discipline.

**Q: How does the program work?**

A: The Court will pair a qualified person who has submitted an expression of interest with a mentor judge. The mentor judge will provide information and guidance regarding education, professional development, and enhancing skills and experiences to serve the public and the judiciary. The mentor judge will also endeavor to answer questions about the judicial application and vetting processes.

**Q: How do I indicate my interest in the Placer Judicial Mentor Program?**

A: Complete an expression of interest form and confidential self-assessment. The forms are available by contacting the Court's Administration Office at 916-408-6186 or [courtadmin@placer.courts.ca.gov](mailto:courtadmin@placer.courts.ca.gov). After court review, those interested will be notified if they have been selected to be introduced to a mentor judge, deferred for later consideration, or not accepted in the program at this time.

**Q: Is there a deadline to submit my expression of interest?**

A: No, expressions of interest can be submitted at any time, however, the expressions are reviewed quarterly.

**Q: How are successful mentees paired with mentors?**

A: Mentees who are selected will be paired with mentor judges after evaluation of the expression of interest, confidential self-assessment, as well as their experiences and areas of law practice. Except in unusual circumstances, each successful mentee will work with a mentor judge for one year.

**Q: Will everyone who submits an expression of interest be paired with a mentor?**

A: Not necessarily. Those who submit an expression of interest will be evaluated for their participation based on information set forth in their expression of interest/confidential self-assessment submitted to the court. Participation in the program is limited by the availability of judicial mentors. There may be some deferrals as a result of not having sufficient judicial mentors.

**Q: What is the time commitment for a mentor/mentee relationship?**

A: There is no time commitment. It will be defined by the mentor and mentee.

**Q: If I have already applied for judicial appointment, may I still submit an expression of interest to be a mentee?**

A: Yes.

**Q: What if I am working with a bar association or other judge on my Judicial application?**

A: The program is intended to build professional relationships, provide information and encourage involvement in the legal community.

**Q: Are those who participate in the Placer Judicial Mentor Program given preference in judicial appointments?**

A: No. The program is designed to help mentees with professional development and interest in serving as a judicial officer. The program is not designed to give participants in the program any advantage over any other judicial applicant.

**Q: Are there Judges who will not participate as a judicial mentor?**

A: Yes. Judicial officers' participation is voluntary and discretionary and to be accomplished so as not to distract from judicial duties.

**Q: When will I receive notification of acceptance, deferral of consideration or that I was not accepted at this time?**

A: There are no specific timelines, however, the court intends to provide a response within three months of receiving an expression of interest. The court will review the expressions of interest on a quarterly basis.